gard to the non-credit of a Demand Draft of Rs. 100/- by the State Bank of India Ambala City (Civil Court Branch) received from the Secretary of Vishwakarma Agro Gramodyog Samiti; and

(b) if so, how much delay has been there in crediting of the said draft and the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Permission to Amnesty International to Visit Punjab

2486. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Amnesty International has sought permission from the Government of India to visit Punjab in the near future;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) The Government do not propose to permit this organisation to conduct political or propaganda work in Punjab.

Handlooms exports from Madras Port

2487. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the yearwise figures of exports of handlooms from Madras Port during the last five years;

(b) whether any decline has been noticed in their exports; and

(c) if so, what remedial measures are being taken by Government to arrest the decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) According to the Handloom Export Promotion Council, the exports of handloom fabrics and made-ups from Madras Port during the last five years have been as follows:—

(Rs. crores)

Year	Value
1984-85	61.02
1985-86	52.86
1986-87	50.53
1987-88	48.88
1988-89 (April-December)	45.04

(b) and (c) There has been a decline in the export of handloom goods from Madras Port mainly due to sluggish demand for Real Madras Handkerchiefs in the major importing countries of West Africa and the possibility of diversion of some exports to other ports like Cochin and Tuticorin However, the total exports of handloom textiles from the country have been showing an increasing trend during the last few years. The Government have taken various steps to boost handloom exports from India, including Madras Port, such as sending trade delegations, conducting market studies and market research, releasing advertisements in foreign trade magazines and distribution of publicity material participation in